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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,  
FRIDAY, JULY 9, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

TGS issues warning on Kurdish ex-MPs, PKK - Aksam  
Gen. Basbug: US has done nothing about the PKK - Milliyet  
Gen. Basbug: PKK is in Iraq, so we are - Hurriyet  
TGS: Kirkuk's demography must not be changed - Hurriyet  
Talabani: PKK is helpless - Aksam  
Rich Americans race for the presidency - Milliyet  
The Hague to rule on legitimacy of Israel's security fence -  
Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

TGS: US must do its part on the PKK - Zaman  
Iraqi uranium taken to US without UN authorization -  
Cumhuriyet  
US steals two tons of uranium in Iraq - Yeni Safak  
June the bloodiest month in Iraq - Cumhuriyet  
Two Turkish truck drivers killed in Iraq - Radikal  
TGS: We'll stay in Iraq until the PKK is eliminated -  
Radikal  
Tom Ridge: Al-Qaeda preparing large-scale attack - Yeni  
Safak  
'TRNC': EU assistance package will force Greeks to  
compromise - Cumhuriyet  
Guantanamo captives to face military court - Radikal  
US military sets up commission for Guantanamo detainees -  
Zaman  
China wipes out Uighur Turks - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

TGS Deputy Chief on northern Iraq, Kurds: Deputy Chief of  
Staff General Ilker Basbug told a monthly press briefing on  
Thursday that Turkish troops would not leave northern Iraq  
until the PKK presence is removed. Basbug strongly  
criticized former DEP lawmakers, including Leyla Zana, for  
'daring' to suggest an extension to the cease-fire that had  
been recently annulled by the PKK. Basbug lashed out at the  
government for allowing the Kurdish ex-MPs stage  
demonstrations in southeast Turkey. Basbug warned against  
attempts to change the demographic structure of Kirkuk. He  
suggested that such problems could be overcome by granting a  
special status to Kirkuk. He also noted that all US  
military training flights in Turkey are fully coordinated  
with the Turkish military. Basbug confirmed that the US has  
not put forward any military requests outside of the  
existing bilateral defense agreement (DECA), but has  
requested to modify current training methods to include  
night-time flying, in-air refueling, and low-altitude  
training.

Cyprus: Ankara called on the EU to do more to ease  
sanctions against the 'TRNC,' particularly in the areas of  
transport and tourism. Ankara expects similar steps from  
the US and the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC),  
"Cumhuriyet" reports. The US is preparing for direct trade  
relations with the 'TRNC,' but the initiative may be delayed  
due to the upcoming US presidential elections and opposition  
from the Greek lobby in Washington. Ankara is also working  
to open the way for direct flights to northern Cyprus from  
third countries. Meanwhile, the World Bank (WB) and the UN  
have prepared a financial and technical assistance package  
for the 'TRNC' in an effort to support the economic reform  
process in northern Cyprus, "Aksam" reports. The US is  
expected to contribute to the WB-UN assistance package.

Israeli Deputy PM Olmert due in Ankara: Israel's Deputy PM  
Ehud Olmert will visit Ankara next week to discuss with PM  
Erdogan Turkey's policy regarding Israel and Erdogan's  
critical comments about Israel's policy in the occupied  
territories. Turkish papers cite the Israeli daily  
"Haaretz" as claiming that Olmert will urge Erdogan to  
muffle his criticisms of Israeli policies, openly support

Israel's Gaza disengagement plan, and send FM Gul on an official visit to Israel in the near future.

Talabani on the PKK, Kirkuk: The northern Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) leader Jalal Talabani told CNN-Turk on Thursday that the order for the PKK to end its unilateral cease-fire had come from PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan. The PKK/Kongra-Gel in northern Iraq is divided into three groups, Talabani said, adding that the organization had lost its effectiveness. Talabani described the PKK in Iraq as 'a fish out of water.' 'The Kurds do not want any more war,' Talabani stressed. He said that Kirkuk should be given a special status with a governorship that would rotate annually among the Arabs, Kurds and Turkmen. Talabani added that KDP leader Barzani would also support a special status for Kirkuk.

EDITORIAL OPINION: US Elections; Iraq-Turkey-Kurds

"Is Kerry Any Different Than Bush?"

Sedat Laciner, a university professor, wrote in the Islamist-intellectual Zaman (7/9): "It is now a general wish in the world, particularly in the Arab and Muslim world, to see Bush lose the presidential election in November. The world would prefer the new president to be a Clinton-like figure. Some even argue that there is already a political figure who could meet those expectations, namely John Kerry. The Kerry campaign has been doing very well so far, especially because Kerry has received support from the Clintons. Yet all of these expectations might turn into a disappointment, because there are some indications about Kerry that might make us long for Bush. The election campaign for John Kerry is based on Bush's foreign policy failures, particularly the Iraq war. However, Kerry's policies don't seem to be any different from Bush. His criticism regarding the war on terrorism is not about its content and goals, but about style and methods. Kerry has not yet pronounced himself on the possible withdrawal of US forces from Iraq and Afghanistan. Moreover, he promises the American voters to use military force and make incursions into other places if and when the need arises. ... John Kerry's vision regarding Israel is also interesting. He believes that the reason for the existence of the United States and the reasons for the existence of Israel are interrelated. Kerry's definition of Israel as 'the real democracy in the Middle East' reflects his view of Turkey as well as other countries in the Middle East. ... Kerry is also very close to the Armenian lobby, which might cause problems for Ankara. Unlike Bush, Kerry defines the events of 1915 as a genocide. ... Given such indications, it is possible to conclude that the post-Bush era will not be a bed of roses either for Turkey or for the Middle East. It is possible that Kerry will make us miss the days of George Bush."

"The Future of the Kurdish Movement"

Oral Calislar wrote in the social democrat-opinion maker Cumhuriyet (7/9): "There are certain issues which will be clarified in the course of time. For instance, how long will the PKK remain present in northern Iraq? What is the US plan against the PKK? In any case, it is possible that the US will take action against the PKK at any time, and as soon as that happens things will start to change. Turkey's Kurdish issue, on the other hand, is going to be shaped through Turkey's democratization process. It is unlikely that the PKK can play a role in this process. Instead, we can expect a legal political struggle. It seems Turkey is prepared to accept a federal Iraq. A political amnesty in Turkey would help to settle Turkey's part of the Kurdish issue. ... The truth is that the Kurds in Turkey must now choose between a political struggle and armed action. Continuing both efforts at the same time is no longer an option. There is no longer popular support for the armed struggle."

DEUTSCH